

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Crystal Ranch Riparian Improvement Year 3

**Proposal Number:** 1438

**DWR Region:** Northeastern Region

**Lead Agency:** NRCS

**County:** Duchesne

**Project Manager:** Jim Spencer

**PM Phone:** 4356370041

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 7/1/2009

**Project Location:** Head north from Mountain Home, and travel as if one is going to the Swift Creek/Yellowstone River trailhead. (Approximately 11 miles north of Altamont)

**Project Description:** Provide fencing along approximately 1.5 miles of the Yellowstone River. This will protect approximately 300 acres of riparian and wetland habitat.

**Description of Problem/Need:** The 500 acres that comprise this parcel of land are known as the Crystal Ranch. The main concern is the riparian area that runs through this property. In an attempt to minimize grazing on the river NRCS helped the landowner fence part of the river. Most of the project has been completed by the landowner through a USDA-NRCS EQIP Program cost share agreement. Since the start of the project in 2007 the NRCS has spent \$112,689 and the landowner has spent \$12,314. There is one last section of fence that needs to be built in order to seal off the riparian area from cattle grazing. The most plausible route for this fence crosses Ashley National Forest land. The EQIP Program does not allow cost share of practices that occur on Federal land or as boundary fence. The land owner is seeking assistance from the WRI to complete this project. Permits and NEPA requirements have been met and acquired.

**Objectives:** To protect, improve, and enhance wildlife habitat along the yellowstone river and to alleviate abuse of land through better grazing management. To protect and improve habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout and other species of fish, as well as habitats for avian species like the greater sage grouse and wild turkeys, and also for mammal species like mule deer and elk.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** This area addresses the habitat types of Mountain Riparian, shrubsteppe, grassland, pinyon-juniper, aspen, wet meadow, and water lotic. All of these habitats are key habitats in the Utah (WAP). The Colorado river cutthroat is a Tier 1 species and uses the lotic habitat of the area. Relevant to the Conservation Strategy for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout. Sage grouse is a tier 2 species. Part of the area is crucial brooding habitat. The Lewis woodpecker is a tier 2 species and has been seen in the area. The Mule deer is a Tier 3 species, this area is within both crucial winter habitat and crucial summer fawning habitat.

**Potential Risks:** None. However if there is no fence to enclose the riparian area, then degradation of the river habitat due to over use by livestock in the area may continue.

**Proposed Methods:** Fence will be built in the buck and pole style, which is an ideal form for wildlife access. Similar fences have been constructed that run north and south. The shortest most cost effective way to close off the remaining fence runs across USFS land in a straight line to the Tribal Land Border. ☐ We propose to build the fence on this route.

**Shapefile Name:** HPD 2010\GIS Shape Files - Proposals\NER\1438.shp

**Seed Source:**

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** Monitoring is being performed through photo points and annual visits to ensure endurance of conservation practices and compliance with Operation and Maintenance Agreement.

**Grazing Management:** Prescribed grazing plan is in place and held on record in the Roosevelt NRCS office.

## SPECIES BENEFITING

Greater Sage-grouse	Mule Deer	CO River Cutthroat Trout	Lewis's Woodpecker
American Beaver	Brook Trout	Brown Trout	Elk
Domestic Livestock	Moose		

# Project Proposal

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
Private	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

## PROPOSED FUNDING

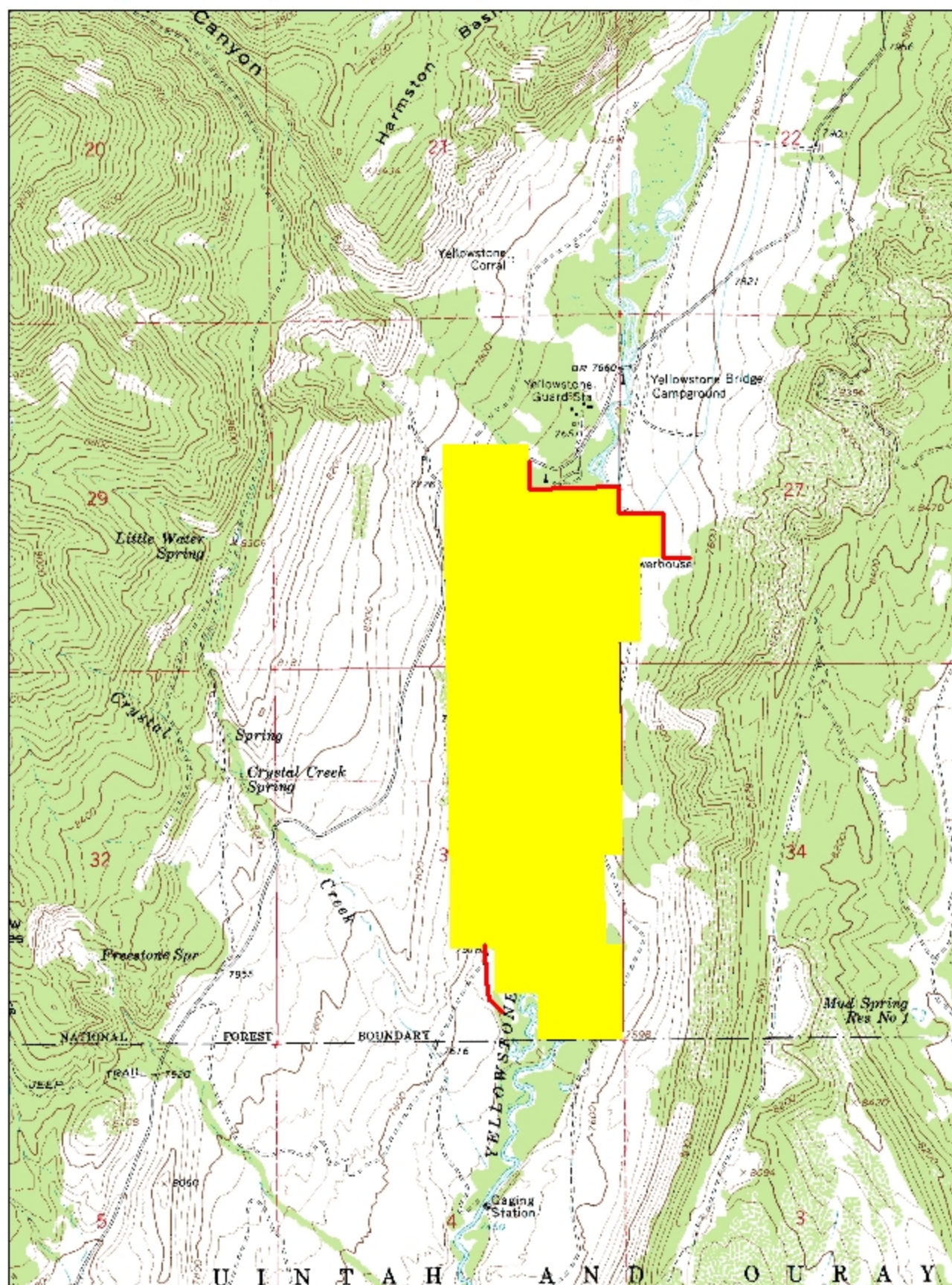
Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$50,000.00		\$0.00
EQIP	\$34,104.00		\$0.00
Private	\$3,789.00		\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$87,893.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services		\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies		\$40,000.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	Seed, Fence, and pest management	\$0.00	\$37,893.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>	<b>\$37,893.00</b>

## Project Map:

# Crystal Springs Riparian Improvement



0.5 0.25 0 0.5 Miles



## Legend

— Proposed Fence

Crystal\_Ranch\_Boundary